



WELCOMING OUR IMMIGRANT SISTERS AND BROTHERS



January 4, 2009
Feast of the Epiphany

“The first [commandment] is this:... ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12: 30-31

Immigration Sunday Liturgy Guide

As Catholics, we are called to welcome the stranger and love our neighbor. One way to take up this call is to incorporate the music, symbols, signs and languages of our immigrant, migrant and refugee sisters and brothers into our liturgical celebrations. The purpose of liturgy is to become one body and spirit in the church.

Pope John Paul II stated that “through inculturation the Church gives the Gospel body in different cultures and at the same time leads peoples with their own cultures into its own community.” Embracing all members of our parish community strengthens our faith and makes us more aware that we are one in Christ. Please use this *Guide* to enrich your worship celebration in a manner than best reflects the worship needs of your parish.

Planning Suggestions

When preparing the liturgy for Immigration Sunday:

- Promote the active participation of all people in your parish community.
- In addition to the spoken word, incorporate movement, music, art and other visual elements to unite all members of your parish community.
- Know and understand the cultural backgrounds of your parishioners.
 - One way to learn the cultural backgrounds of your parishioners is to survey parishioners several weeks before Immigration Sunday. Place copies of a brief questionnaire in the pews. Include the following questions:
 1. Do you speak more than one language?
 2. If yes, what language(s) do you speak?
 3. Have you lived in a different country?
 4. If yes, in which country/countries have you lived?
 5. If you have traveled to another country, in what ways was the Mass there different?
- Invite leaders of ethnic groups into the Immigration Sunday planning process.
- Avoid oversimplifying differences between cultural groups – e.g., Italians are different from Hungarians, even though both are European.

Language

Include as many languages as possible in your Immigration Sunday liturgical celebration:

- Select bilingual music.
- Invite parishioners to respond to General Intercessions in the language of their choice:

<i>Xin Chua lang nghe loi cau nguyen cua chung con</i>	Vietnamese
<i>O Dios, escucha nuestra oracion</i>	Spanish
<i>Oh God, hear our prayer</i>	English

- Invite parishioners to recite the Lord's Prayer in the language of their choice.
- Invite parishioners to share with one another a sign of peace in the language of their choice.

Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; But upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: Your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses. Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, For the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; All from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

If, as I suppose, you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, which was not made known to human beings in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit, that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

Suggested Intercessions

- For immigrants, migrants, refugees, and all newcomers, that they may be welcomed in our parish. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For our immigrant and refugee sisters and brothers, that they may remain true to all that is good in their rich traditions and heritage, and help to build harmonious communities wherever they live. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop Nienstedt, Bishop _____, priests, deacons, women religious, and missionaries, that they may continue to lead, guide and support the solicitude of the Church towards immigrants and vulnerable populations. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For migrants, refugees and strangers in our community, that they may find hope in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For our community, gathered here today to celebrate our unity in Christ, that we may come to a greater understanding and acceptance of our differences. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For unaccompanied migrant children, that they may be protected from all harm and reunited with loving families. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For migrant workers, that they may work in safe and just conditions, and that we who benefit from their labor may be truly grateful for what they provide. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For an end to the violence and poverty that displace so many of our sisters and brothers from their homes and homelands. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For our leaders, that they may implement policies that allow for safe migration, just migrant working conditions, and an end to the detention of asylum seekers, while protecting our national safety. Let us pray to the Lord.

Music

Gathering Song

City of God, Dan Schutte, OCP Publications

Sing a New Church, Nettleton, OCP Publications

Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ, Jaime Cortez, OCP Publications

Responsorial Psalm

Every Nation on Earth (Ps. 72), Michael Joncas, GIA Publications

Lord, Every Nation, Jesse Manibusan, OCP Publications

Preparation of the Gifts

Bread of Life, Hope for the World, Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications

Let Us Be Bread, Thomas J. Porter, GIA Publications, Inc.

Let Us Break Bread Together, Spiritual, GIA Publications, Inc.

This Little Light of Mine, African American Spiritual, Arranged by Leon C. Roberts

The Lord is My Light, Christopher Walker, OCP Publications

Alleluia

Celtic Alleluia, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker: *Alternative verse for the Feast of the Epiphany:*
A holy day has dawned.
Adore the Lord, you nations,
for today a light
has come on the earth.

Eucharistic Song

Bread for the World, Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications

Cuando Partimos el Pan del Senor/In the Breaking of the Bread, Bob Hurd and Michael Downey, OCP

Here I Am, Lord, Dan Schutte, OCP Publications

Lead Us to Your Table, Tom Tomaszek and Steve Angrisano, OCP Publications

One Bread, One Body, John Foley, S.J., OCP Publications

Ven al Banquete/Come to the Feast, Bob Hurd, OCP Publications

Recessional

Christ, Be Our Light, Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications

City of God, Dan Schutte, OCP Publications

Go Light Your World, Chris Rice, ASCAP

Go Make A Difference, Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek, OCP Publications

Lead Me Lord, John Becker, OCP Publications

Malo! Malo! Thanks Be to God, Jessie Manibusan, OCP Publications

Siyahamba/We Are Marching, South African, Walton Music Corporation

We Are Called to Serve, Julie and Tim Smith, Resource Publications